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CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter *September 1989*

BLM SOFTWARE IMPROVEMENT

BLM intends to provide the users of its automated data processing system with state-of-the-art computer hardware and software. A major step in achieving this goal is the acquisition of entirely new computer hardware, and the relocation of software systems currently operating on the Honeywell DPS 8000 and the SC DPS 6+ to the new hardware. This new computing system, referred to as the "target system," is to be operational at the SC by 1993.

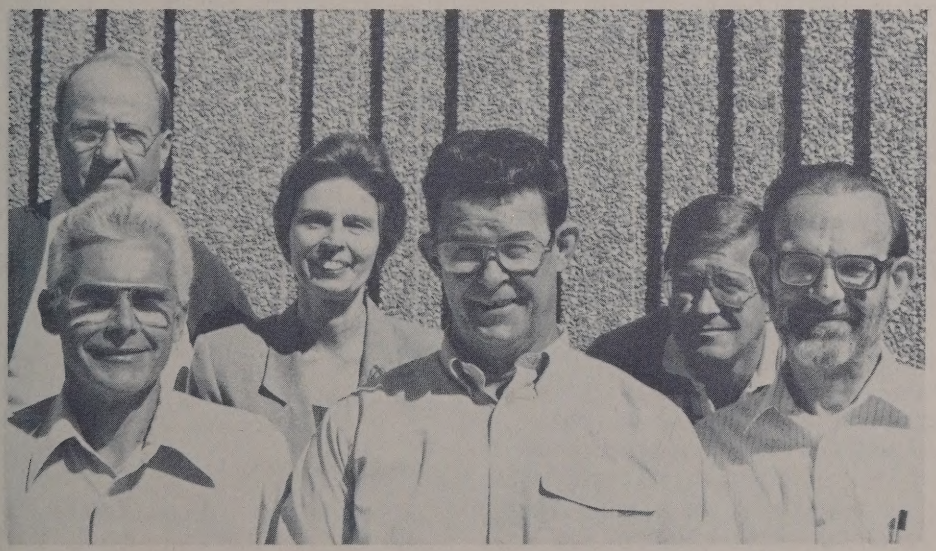
The most critical of the tasks involved in achieving the target system will be that of preparing the current software systems for relocation to the new computer. Approximately 35 of the 60 Bureauwide application systems must be converted to the target system. Most of these do not use modern structured or modular techniques, library routines, common data names, or shared data.

In January 1988, a Software Assessment Study, performed by American Management Systems, Inc., recommended that the Bureau implement a software improvement process (SIP) to improve existing software in terms of programming and maintenance efficiencies before converting it to the target system. They also recommended that a software engineering technology (SET) be developed to provide the methods, measures, and controls for the SIP and, subsequently, for all software activities within the SC's Branch of Computer Applications.

Established in October 1988, the SIP Section (SC-342E) is tasked with implementing the Bureau's Software Improvement Process, including preparation of an SIP Plan documenting how the SIP will be conducted, when specific functions will be performed, and who will be responsible for each phase of the project. As of August 1, the SIP Section has completed a preliminary SIP Plan and developed the baseline version of the SET. The software systems to be converted to the target system have been identified and evaluated. Recommendations for improvement are being prepared for each system. Two reengineering tools, PATHVU and RETROFIT, will be used in the process.

The SIP Section is currently assisting in the preparation of the Request for Proposal that will be issued in the acquisition of the target system.

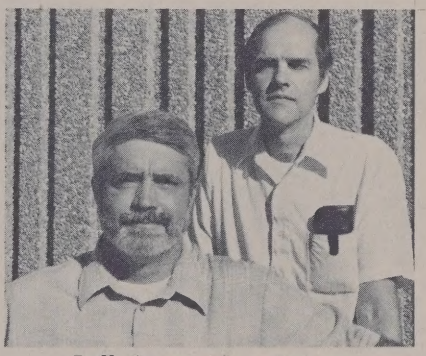
Watch for additional articles on SIP in future issues of *Center Scene*.



Front: Roger Espeland, Barney Poole, Graham Miller.
Back: Wayne Buehrer, Iris Matney, Section Chief, Gary Aho.

DATA EXCHANGE

Three SC Branches (Resources, Computer Applications, and Records) have developed an automated system that transfers mineral rental, expiration, and termination data from the Minerals Management Service to BLM. This is the first phase of a project that will ultimately result in the automated transfer of most minerals data exchanged by the two agencies.



Jeff Jung, Alan Johnson

The system was first implemented in the Wyoming State Office in July. This marked the culmination of an extensive interagency effort to identify, analyze, and document the data exchange actions that could be automated to reduce each agency's workload. A development team worked closely with BLM employees to ensure the system would meet both agencies' needs and impose no added workload.

Wyoming State employees are already benefiting since they no longer have to make 2,300 rental entries into Case Recordation and file 2,300 rental documents each month. Bureauwide, the system should eliminate the filing of over 80,000 rental receipts, the entry of 100,000 mineral lease actions, and the introduction of 90,000 potential errors into BLM and MMS systems each year.

Kudos go to Jeff Jung, Resources, Alan Johnson and John Cheatwood, Computer Applications, Phyllis Stone, Wyoming State Office, and Jim Deshajo, MMS for providing this time-saving, user-oriented system to our State Offices.

WORD-OF-THE-MONTH

Gather. A recent BLM press release referred to a wild horse gather in Nevada. Remember when they used to have a roundup? Well, the person who coined gather rewrote the lyrics to the song "They Call the Wind Mariah," from the musical "Paint Your Wagon." The new version: "A way out here they've got a name for rain and wind and fire. The rain is precipitation, the fires' conflagration, and they call the wind an Aeolian disturbance."

RETIREMENTS

After 15 years with BLM at the SC, Susan Lindgren decided she would rather take a hike - so she did. She spent 10 days hiking and rafting in the glacier country of southeastern Alaska.

That's a far cry and a long trail from the days when a young girl used to pedal her one-speed 8 miles from the family farm to Idalia, CO, where she could browse in the library.

After high school she headed for Denver and a series of interesting but low-paying jobs: sewing fur collars back on rich ladies' coats at a dry cleaners, clerking for Jerry's Nuthouse (no, readers, that's not the SC), and packaging cookies in a local factory. She says she still can't look an Oreo in the eye.

She also worked at the American National Bank, but soon found the clerks don't get to move to Cherry Hills, only the vice presidents. At that point she decided to join the Federal Government and came to the SC in November 1974.

After 5 years in the Safety Office and 1 year in Personnel, she transferred to the Division of Finance where she worked in general accounting and, finally, in data control.

Susan has two daughters, in Arvada and Dillon, and 3.6 grandchildren whom she intends to spoil beyond redemption.

She will continue to teach at the Womansschool in Lakewood where she instructs hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. She also leads hikes for the Colorado Mountain Club. In addition to the outdoor life, she enjoys sewing and crafts work.

Happy trails, Susan. We will miss you.

As of September 1, we will no longer see Anna Padilla's smiling face around the Service Center. The Chief of the Equal Employment Opportunity Staff will be saving her smiles for that "other" world outside of the Service Center.

Anna is leaving after 15 years with BLM. She was a member of the EEO Staff before becoming Staff Chief in 1979. She had wanted a position that was challenging and that allowed her to constantly learn new things. This was that type of job for her - it proved to be not only interesting, but also rewarding.

BLM is the only Federal agency Anna has worked for. She had been a secretary for various employers in private industry. Just prior to coming to BLM, she worked for the City and County of Denver as a proposal writer in the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity.

During her retirement, Anna plans to do "interesting and fun things," and to take the opportunity to explore that "other" world that she seldom had time for when she was working. She also plans to do a little traveling, and will work part time on a contract basis doing some EEO program-type activities.

Anna plans to stay in the Denver area. She was raised in Denver and has two children, Tony and Karen, who also reside here.

Reflecting on her career, Anna would like to thank all of the employees at the SC (and there were many throughout the years) who have contributed to the EEO program. She feels fortunate to have had the kind of participation that she did in the program - so many people gave of themselves and their time, and shared their belief in EEO. She appreciates the cooperation of managers and supervisors as well. As a result, Anna believes that jobs, training, promotions, and career guidance were made available to those who might not have had such opportunities otherwise.

Best wishes to Anna - the SC will be losing a dedicated professional.

After 16 years with the Federal Government, Dorothy Belanger said, "That's enough." She and her husband bought a home near Palisade, CO, in the peach country near Grand Junction, where the loudest noises you hear are the squawking of pheasants. And that beats the roar of the neighbor's hot rod that used to awaken her in Denver.

Dorothy was born in Brooklyn but was raised in Indiana. In fact, her first government job was at Ft. Benjamin Harrison where she coped with an IBM keypunch machine. After working at other jobs, she transferred to the SC 6 years ago, originally as a data transcriber in Computer Operations, and has spent the past 4 years in the Finance Division as a voucher auditor. Her assignment there involved processing payments for California.

But now she will test the fishing on the Grand Mesa, grow prize-winning roses, and perhaps try her hand at golf. And with two sons, one daughter, and five grandchildren in the Denver area, she will likely have lots of company.

Dorothy especially wants to be remembered to all her friends at BLM. And she appreciated the excellent luncheon at Red Lobster.

Best wishes for big fishes, Dorothy.

NOTICE

Your deranged editor will be away from the office for three months. Any ideas you have for stories should be referred to Linda Hill, who will try to restore decorum to this publication. She is at extension 6-6567.

Bill Griffith

Congratulations to the photo contest winners:

1st place	Herman Weiss
2nd place	Kathy Rohling
3rd place	Kathy Rohling